

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION OF
UNSOLICITED E-MAIL MESSAGES (SPAM)**

Abstract of the Disclosure

Techniques for annotating email messages. In one aspect of the invention, a method is provided for annotating a query email message. According to the method, patterns associated with a database, comprising annotated email messages, which may typically be known unwelcome email messages (“SPAM”), are accessed, as by use of a pattern discovery algorithm (e.g. the Teiresias pattern algorithm). Attributes are assigned to the patterns based on the annotated SPAM email messages. The patterns with assigned attributes are used to analyze the query email message.